**Clauses Guide**

A **clause** is a group of words that hang together, anchored by a subject and verb. There are two types of clauses: **independent** and **dependent.**

**Independent Clause:**

An independent clause:

* contains a subject and a verb **and**
* establishes a complete thought
* can be called a **sentence** all on its own
* can be joined (by a conjunction) to another independent clause
  + independent clause + conjunction + independent clause = compound sentence

**Dependent Clause**  
A dependent clause:

* contains a [subject](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/subject.htm) and [verb](https://www.grammar-monster.com/lessons/verbs.htm) **but**
* also contains a word that makes it unable to stand alone
* **cannot** be called a sentence on its own
* is connected to an independent clause
  + independent clause + dependent clause = complex sentence

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| **Examples of Independent Clauses** | **Examples of Dependent Clauses** |
| * She is at the bus stop. * I put on my ballet shoes. * I took swim lessons from Mrs. Allison. | * …who was at the bus stop. * As I put on my ballet shoes… * When I took swim lessons from Mrs. Allison… |

**The Link between a Dependent Clause and an Independent Clause**

The link between a dependent clause and an independent clause is a[**subordinating conjunction**](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/subordinating_conjunctions.htm) or a [**relative pronoun**](https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/relative_pronouns.htm). For example:

* Mercury literally climbed out of his crib **when** he was a baby. (when = subordinating conjunction)
* The book, **which** your class is reading this week, is the *Aeneid.* (which = relative pronoun)
* My best friend Roni, **who** was at the bus stop, always played fun games with me. (who = relative pronoun)
* **As** I put on my point shoes, my feet began to immediately hurt. (as = subordinating conjunction)
* **Because** the young girls took swim lessons from Mrs. Allison, they learned how to swim really well.. (because = subordinating conjunction)
* I always loved to play the Bach double, **which** my violin teacher Mrs. Rogers taught me. (which = relaive pronoun)

**The Relative Clause**

A relative clause

* describes a previous noun
  + This previous noun is called the [antecedent](javascript:void(0);) (from the Latin *ante + cedere = to go before)*
* **Starts** with a relative pronoun (who, whom, whose, which)
  + The relative pronoun refers directly to the antecedent (so we use “who/whom/whose” to refer to a person and “which” to refer to a thing)
* is often separated out with commas
* is sometimes called an "adjectival clause" as it acts describes a noun much like an adjective

**Examples using relatives clauses:**

* The boy, ***whose* book I have**, is a friend.

(The relative clause describes the boy. We use “whose” because “boy” is a person.)

* The poem, **in which the forest is described,** evokes feelings of calm.  
  (The relative clause describes the poem. We use “which” because “poem” is a thing.)
* The senator**, *whom* I knew well**, is his father.

(The relative clause describes the senator. We use “whom” because “senator” is a person.)

* We discussed the concept of freedom, **which was an important theme in the movie.**

(The relative clause describes freedom. We use “which” because “freedom” is a thing.)

*Nota bene*: In Latin, the relative pronoun **must** match its antecedent in gender and number, but not always case.

**Indirect Statement**

An indirect statement:

* Relays a thought or statement…indirectly (i.e. it’s not a direct quote)
* Usually begins with the word “that” in English

The independent clause, which will introduce an indirect statement, contains a “tell” verb (e.g. tell, know, believe, say, announce, report, proclaim, etc.)

**Example:**

I know *that* *the man loves the woman*.  
*(*In this sentence, *that is a subordinating conjunction* indicating an indirect statement).)

*Nota bene*: In Latin, indirect statement uses an infinitive instead of a dependent clause. You can search **Indirect Statement** in your Toolbox for more on how these statements are formed in Latin!